

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

Our faith calls us to respect the dignity of work and of workers. We must see those who we do business with as brothers and sisters and work for a society that respects the dignity of all workers.



Photo: Adobe Stock

Read

Take time to read and reflect on the Scriptures for this day.

Don't have access to a Bible?

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings or download an app such as *Laudate* or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

St. Paul's letter to Philemon provides a very helpful insight into how the Gospel challenges the economic norms of the First Century world. In thoughtful and generous language, Paul urges Philemon, a wealthy man and owner of the slave Onesimus, to treat Onesimus as a brother, not a slave.

In a similar way, our faith in Jesus challenges us to rethink our economic relationships. Like Philemon, we are challenged as individuals to go beyond the requirements of our legal and economic system to treat those we do business with as sisters and brothers. Furthermore, we are called to act to make a more just society that respects the dignity of work and of workers.

Wisdom 9:13-18b

Who can know God's counsel?

Psalms 90

Human beings come and go like the grass.

Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Let your slave become your brother.

Luke 14: 25-33

Pick up your own cross and come after me.

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Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Help your child to reflect on the dignity of work:

- **Observe your child doing work in a helpful way.** Take the opportunity to observe when your child is doing work in a way that helps the family or the wider society. Share with your child your observation about how that work is making a difference and ask them how it felt to do that work. What was it like? See if they can reflect on the satisfaction one feels when doing work that contributes to the common good.
- **Share a little of your own experience.** Reflect a little on your own experience of doing meaningful work and feeling a sense of dignity.
- **Ask your child if they have experienced times when they were doing work but it didn't feel meaningful.** Encourage your child to see the difference and see what things contribute to making work feel dignified.
- **Discuss with your child how we can help others find their work meaningful.** Encourage your child to use their experience to shed light on how to help others experience dignity in their work. Think through ways that your family can help promote economic choices that lend dignity to the work of others.

Learn more about the Church's call to respect the dignity of work and of workers this Labor Day:

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers (USCCB)

<https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/the-dignity-of-work-and-the-rights-of-workers>

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website provides a description of the principle of the Dignity of Work in Catholic Social Teaching.

Catholic Social Teaching 101: The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers (USCCB)

<https://youtu.be/G2G8jGOva7Y>

This 4-minute video by the USCCB describes the principle of Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers in Catholic Social Teaching

Year of St. Joseph (Presentation by Bishop Joseph Tyson)

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Year%20of%20St.%20Joseph%20-%20Presentation%20by%20Bishop%20Tyson.pdf>

This presentation on St. Joseph sheds light on his life and the dignity of his work.

For more resources, visit us online at:

<https://marriagefamilylife.seattlearchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith>